



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS, 24th INFANTRY DIVISION (MECH) and FORT RILEY
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFZN-GA-AS

4 Dec 2004

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Fort Riley Retiree Council

Call to Order: A meeting of the Fort Riley Retiree Council was called to order by the chairperson, MSG (Ret) Michael L. Heronemus, USA, at 1018 hours on 4 Dec 2004.

Invocation: SSG (Ret) Carroll Everest, USA, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: MSG Heronemus led council members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Minutes: The minutes of the council's meeting on 28 August 2004 were approved.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee – SGM (Ret) Joe Gilmore asked about filling the widow's position on the council with Mrs. Mary Sue Moore. COL (Ret) Verlyn Steinkruger stated that she is still interested in the position but was unable to attend today. It was recommended that this action be tabled until the next meeting in order for council members to meet Mrs. Moore and then vote on the action. It was brought to the council's attention that CSM (Ret) Brian Wells has missed several meetings without contacting the RSO prior. It was recommended and approved that he be dismissed from the council. CSM (Ret) Richard Young was introduced as a potential replacement. He was unanimously approved to fill the membership vacancy.

Discussion:

a. BG (Ret) Thomas Kennedy noted that the list of items our council sent to the Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council last year are without exception, covered in a handout, December 2004 Defense Authorization Act. He asked the council if there were any other issues they would like to forward this year. If so, please prepare, and send them to Kathy Cunningham-Tucker no later than 20 December 2004. Issues for the Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council must be forwarded no later than 5 January 2005. The council agreed to let Kathy and MSG Heronemus decide which issues would go forward. Kathy reminded us that the issues need to be broad-based and not localized issues. It was noted that LTC (Ret) Marcellus Goff has been nominated to be a member of the Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council; MSG (Ret) Gus Catalan asked that his name be submitted as well. This was acted upon favorably.

b. Federal Legislation update: There were numerous handouts for us to look at regarding legislation affecting our armed forces. The council inquired about the status of LTC (Ret) Carol Beggs, Kansas state legislator. Kathy informed the council members that he has been hospitalized in Topeka since September 2004 and that she would attempt to contact Mrs. Beggs for further information concerning his condition.

c. BG (Ret) Dayle Williamson noted that there are 13 appropriations bills, some have to go thru an omnibus bill, which needs further work. BG Williamson distributed a press release regarding the Senate and House Conference on the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005. He also noted that Senator Ben Nelson recently spent time with our troops in Iraq. BG Williamson

stated that Senator Nelson is a great leader for the armed services and he can be a great conduit for us to get our views expressed. BG Kennedy also informed us that he had included a page on legislation from the Topeka Chapter of MOAA for us to look at as well. Kathy added that there was information concerning SBP, combat compensation, etc. available on the table of handouts as well.

d. The question was asked whether the bill referencing the confidentiality of the 214's was ever voted into law. MSG Heronemus said he believed that it did pass.

e. Kathy and Lorraine Nobes presented a slide show recapping the Retiree Appreciation Day 2005. Council members reviewed an after actions report from the day's activities. Overall, it was an outstanding event, and Kathy, Lorraine, and MSG Heronemus were thanked and congratulated for their fine efforts. The next RAD will be held October 14 at Riley's event center. SMA (Ret) Robert Hall, Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council, Co-Chairman, will be the featured guest speaker.

f. Election of New Officers: In accordance with the council's by-laws, the Vice-Chairperson would normally be elected the new Chairperson. However, LTC (Ret) Jack Hoagland has requested to forgo this honor due to his increasing activity with the Manhattan CASA program. This year's election requires an officer-member to serve as chairperson, and an enlisted-member to serve as vice chairperson. BG Kennedy nominated BG Williamson to serve as chairperson. BG Williamson graciously accepted to nomination and was elected by unanimous vote. CSM (Ret) Leland Robinson was nominated to serve as vice chairperson and was likewise elected. LTC (Ret) Diana Chapel was asked to serve as secretary with MSG Heronemus as the assistant secretary. They both agreed and the vote carried. Congratulations to all!

g. Calendar Planning: Council meetings for 2005 were scheduled as follows:

1st quarter – Friday, February 4, 2005. This is a new idea that will allow those who travel some distance to use the facilities at Ft. Riley that are normally closed on weekends.

2nd quarter – Friday, April 15 OR Saturday April 16, 2005. (Depending on how the first Friday meeting works out!!!)

3rd quarter – Saturday, July 30, 2005.

Pre-RAD Meeting – Saturday, October 1, 2005

4th quarter – Saturday, December 3, 2005. This will be an evening meeting/dinner party with spouses. Details will be announced later.)

h. SGM (Ret) Joseph Gilmore noted that Riley's looks pretty bland, and we need to decorate it somehow for the RAD. It was suggested that perhaps the Cavalry museum could set up some displays. MSG Heronemus also added that the PAO has huge historical photos that can be hung and used for that day. It was also suggested that since the RAD will be on Ft. Riley again, that we might be able to have various military vehicles on display in the parking lot. Perhaps local hotels would offer special price rates for those attending the RAD. Kathy stated she would find out, and try to incorporate as much information as possible into the annual newsletter announcing the RAD.

i. SSG Everist commented on the dedication ceremony for the Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Winfield, Kansas and brought programs to share with council members.

j. COL (Ret) Verlyn Steinkruger noted that as council members, we need to get retirees involved in volunteer projects at Ft. Riley. He had talked to the Irwin Army Community Hospital commander, COL Marilyn Brooks, and said that volunteers can register with the Red Cross for a four-hour volunteer training course. IACH needs volunteers in many areas. Anyone interested should call Debbie Freeman at 239-1887 or 239-1837 for more information. Volunteers are really needed right now with all the deployments and redeployments going on. This is an opportunity to not only be of service, but to also provide moral support. SSG Everist noted that at McConnell AFB there is a retiree affairs person who helps with this. The council needs to come up with some specific ideas of how we can promote volunteering among retirees in our community.

Old Business:

a. BG Williamson stated that the program for funerals in Nebraska (coordinating with Ft. Riley) has been very good. There have been 17 deaths from NE in Iraq and Afghanistan. The automated bugle works very well too.

b. LTC (Ret) Stanley Sutton noted that the pharmacy at the hospital is back in its old location and is working very smoothly.

c. MSG Heronemus attended an Old Trooper dinner in which MG Dennis E. Hardy announced he has asked to be extended at Ft. Riley for an additional year. COL Jay Simpson, Garrison Commander, announced that CSM (Ret) Lloyd Parker CSI was awarded a huge logistics contract that will affect some employees at Ft. Riley. COL Simpson also indicated a family housing contract is being worked in anticipation for the brigade from the 25th Division slated to arrive at Ft. Riley in January 2006. An additional brigade may also be reassigned to Ft. Riley, possibly an aviation unit, and maybe a division headquarters. Fort Riley will definitely grow in the near future.

d. BG Kennedy announced that the Kansas Prayer Breakfast will be March 4, 2005 at the Ramada Inn Downtown, Topeka, KS. Mark Hansen, co-author of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series of books will be the guest speaker.

Adjournment: There being no further old or new business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 1152 hours. The next meeting will be on Friday, February 4, at 1330 hours.



DIANA M. CHAPEL
LTC (Ret), USA, Incoming Recorder



MICHAEL L. HERONEMUS
MSG (Ret), USA, Chairperson



KATHY CUNNINGHAM-TUCKER
DAC, Retirement Services Officer